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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR  
DESIGN  
PATENT APPLICATION  
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted With Initial Filing

OR

Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	14988 NP
First Named Inventor	Gibert et al
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	10/526,399
Filing Date	3/2/05
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

I hereby declare that:

Each inventor's residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to their name.

I believe the inventor(s) named below to be the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Footwear item for racket sports

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

 is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 03/18/2004 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/FR2003/002679 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) 10/05/2004 (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
02 11134	FRANCE	09.09.2002	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

TSP

## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to:  The address associated with Customer Number: 000293 OR  Correspondence address below

## Name

Ralph A. Dowell of DOWELL &amp; DOWELL, P.C.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) <u>Xavier</u>		Family Name or Surname <u>GIBERT</u>	
Inventor's Signature <i>Xavier Gibson</i>		Date <u>3/3/2005</u>	
Residence: City <u>CHASSIEU</u>	State	Country FRANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizenship French	
Mailing Address 4 rue Toulouse Lautrec			
City <u>CHASSIEU</u>	State	Zip 69680	Country FRANCE
NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) <u>Francis</u>		Family Name or Surname <u>LEPAGE</u>	
Inventor's Signature <i>Francis LEPAGE</i>		Date <u>3/3/2005</u>	
Residence: City <u>DOMMARTIN</u>	State	Country FRANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizenship French	
Mailing Address 51 chemin de la Muselière			
City <u>DOMMARTIN</u>	State	Zip 69380	Country FRANCE

Additional inventors or a legal representative are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ supplemental sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A or 02LR attached hereto.

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**DECLARATION****ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**

Supplemental Sheet

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname	
<u>Bertrand</u>		<u>BARRE</u>	
Inventor's Signature	Date <u>3/3/2005</u>		
Residence: City <u>LAPEYROUSE</u>	State	Country <u>FRANCE</u>	French Citizenship
Le Village			
Mailing Address			
City <u>LAPEYROUSE</u>	State	Zip <u>01330</u>	Country <u>FRANCE</u>
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname	
Inventor's Signature	Date		
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip	Country
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname	
Inventor's Signature	Date		
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip	Country

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

APPLICANT: Gibert et al

TITLE:

SERIAL NO: 10/526,399

EXAMINER:

Dkt No. 14988NP

FILED: 3/2/05

GROUP:

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS

[ ] FOR INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I am an independent inventor who (1) has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and (2) is under no obligation under contract or law, to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention, to any person who could not likewise be classified as an independent inventor if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern or a nonprofit organization, as defined in 37 CFR 1.9.

[ ] FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that \_\_\_\_\_ is a business concern which qualifies as a small business concern as defined in §1.9(d) - namely, (1) whose number of employees, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons; and (2) which has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and is under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern or a nonprofit organization under this section; and that the exclusive rights to the invention have been conveyed to and remain with the above-identified small business concern.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like, so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

INVENTORS:

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Name  
3/3/2005  
Date

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Name  
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Date

Bertrand Bani  
Name  
3/3/2005  
Date

SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN:

By: Eric RABOLAT  
Name: Eric RABOLAT  
Title: Chairman of the Board  
Date: 1st March 2005

By:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_